



## **A New PATH**

### **Parents for Addiction Treatment and Healing**

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#### **For Immediate Release**

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Media Advisory

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### **A New PATH Breaks Ground on the Self-Reflection Garden for Inmates at Donovan State Prison.**

San Diego, CA: A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing) is creating a garden at Donovan State Prison for inmates in need of substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation. After months of planning, the project began on Friday, January 30, 2004.

**What:** Self-Reflection Garden at Donovan State Prison. Inmates begin digging trenches for paths and planting. Prison removes a wall to expand scope of garden. A video history of the project is being recorded.

**When:** Friday, January 30, 2004 – Ground Breaking. Phase I scheduled for completion by end of April and completion of Phase II by July.

**Where:** Hope program, Donovan State Prison

**Who:** Inmates in the Hope Program at Donovan State Prison, Warden Hernandez and Donovan officials  
PATH Co-Founder & Chair of the Project, Sylvia Liwerant  
President of the Board of Directors of PATH, Caroline Stewart  
PATH Co-Founder & Executive Director Gretchen Burns Bergman  
Gary Stone, Landscape Architect & Designer and Manuel Silva, Landscape Designer

**Why:** 85% of California inmates are imprisoned due to drug or alcohol related crimes. There is a paucity of substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation programs behind bars. The prison atmosphere is bleak, cold and often violent. Without a glimmer of hope it is almost impossible to begin the process of recovery. The National Center on Addiction & Substance Abuse reports that, within 5 years of their release, criminals who received treatment for substance abuse are 4 times less likely to commit another crime than those who did not.

A New PATH is creating the garden as a first step towards increasing substance abuse treatment opportunities behind bars. County Supervisor Ron Roberts has donated \$14,000 to this project and it is also being funded through donations. KRC Rock and Dixieline Lumber are donating materials. Landscape architect Gary Stone has designed a beautiful garden that will instill hope and inspire self-reflection. Inmates have begun to clear the rocks and prepare the soil. They will participate in the planning and care of the garden, thereby adding a restorative element. A timeline is being created with two phases and completion by July 2004.

“The garden will be a serene haven to discover the strength within, and begin the journey towards change, sobriety and recovery.”

Gretchen Burns Bergman, Executive Director, A New PATH

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